## **Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail**

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

assaulted a British soldier. Fearing retaliation, the city fathers rushed

to apologize. Fortunately the British officers decided to dismiss the





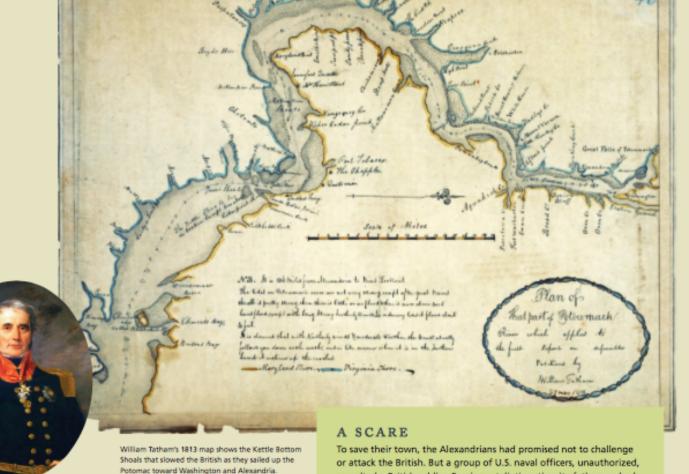


## Fighting Back

WITH ALEXANDRIA UNDER BRITISH CONTROL in August 1814, top-ranking U.S. military men gathered at this high point above the city. President Madison conferred with Secretary of the Navy William Jones, Brigadier General John Hungerford, and U.S. Navy Captain David Porter, Jr. The men decided to harass the British ships as they withdrew down the Potomac.

"The town of Alexandria, with the exception of public works, shall not be destroyed, unless hostilities are commenced on the part of the Americans; nor shall the inhabitants be molested in any manner whatever, or their dwelling-houses entered, if the following articles are complied with."

British Captain Gordon, in the introduction to his articles of capitulation





www.StarSpangledTrail.net www.NPS.gov/STSP Cultural Tourism DC.org Captain James Gordon

Oil by Andrew Morton, National Maritime Museum, UK

In the summer of 1814 the United States had been at war with Great Britain for two years. Battlefronts had erupted from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. On August 24, following their victory over the Americans at the Battle of Bladensburg, Maryland, British troops marched on Washington with devastating results.

Manufand State Archives

The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail reveals sites of the War of 1812 in Washington, DC, Virginia, and Maryland. Visit ChesapeakeExplorerApp.com or download the Chesapeake Explorer app.

incident with a warning.